

DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES

→ Volunteering - key indicators

The *Economic Value of Volunteering in Western Australia* report by Dr Duncan Ironmonger of the University of Melbourne was commissioned by the Department for Communities to demonstrate the significant contribution Western Australia's army of volunteers makes to the Western Australian economy and community. Copies of the full report are available on the Department for Communities' website at www.communities.wa.gov.au
All data and tables in this document are sourced from the Ironmonger report.

Economic value

- Volunteering was worth \$2.7 billion to Western Australia in 1992, growing to \$6.6 billion in 2006. This was calculated by adding together the value of formal (organised)* and informal (unorganised)** volunteering, travel time and other volunteer inputs (for example, phone calls).
- The average individual donation of volunteering time and associated costs, on a per-adult-in-the-population basis, increased by 90 per cent over the period 1992 to 2006, from \$2,244 in 1992 to \$4,254 in 2006.
- The value of volunteering as a percentage of Gross State Product decreased from 6.5 in 1992 to 5.6 in 2006.

Hours worked by WA volunteers

- Western Australian Volunteers provided a volume of work equivalent to 99,000 full-time jobs in 1992 rising to 146,000 in 2006.
- This volume of volunteer work is equivalent to an additional 13.4 per cent of the paid number of people employed in Western Australia in 1992 and 13.6 per cent in 2006.
- The average total hours per adult of volunteering in Western Australia rose 13 per cent from 1992 to 2006.

***Organised** volunteering is unpaid help in the form of time, service or skills willingly given by an individual through an organisation or group.

****Unorganised** volunteering is the informal unpaid help and care that is provided in personal networks of family, friends, neighbours and acquaintances.

Fig. 1 Value of voluntary work in Western Australia 2006

	Formal (organised) volunteering							
	Formal (organised)	Informal (unorganised)	Travel	Women	Men	Regional	Perth Metro	Sports & Physical Recreation groups
Amount	\$2.1 billion	\$3.6 billion	\$1 billion	\$1.07 billion	\$1.03 billion	\$475 million	\$1.6 billion	\$584 million
Percentage	31	54	15	51	49	23	77	
No. hours (av)/year / volunteer				124	139	123	134	



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Informal (unorganised) volunteering

- Informal volunteering grew at a slower rate than formal volunteering. Informal volunteering increased 12 per cent from 1992 to 2006, while formal volunteering rose 32 per cent.
- There was a significant decline in 'helping adults' between 1997 and 2006 and an increase in 'helping children.'

Formal (organised) volunteering

- Women volunteers living outside the metropolitan area contributed the highest economic value of formal volunteering.
- Organisations with the lowest numbers of volunteers and value of volunteering were in emergency services and arts/heritage, both worth \$59 million.
- In 2006, 37.6 per cent of all Western Australians aged 18 or over volunteered for at least one organisation or group – that's 587,800 volunteers. These volunteers gave 77.2 million hours in organised volunteering, an average of 131 hours each.
- The 35 to 44 years age group gave \$544 million out of the \$2.1 billion given through organised volunteering in Western Australia in 2006, an average value of \$1,749 per adult in the whole population. That's thirty per cent higher than the \$1,342 average value over all ages.

Fig. 2 Formal volunteering in Western Australia 2006

Population Group	Population (000)	Annual volunteer rate (%)	Annual number of volunteers (000)
All Adults 18+	1561.3	37.6	587.8
Women	779.4	40.5	316.1
Men	781.9	34.7	271.7

- Although the volunteer rate was lower in Perth (37 per cent) than across the rest of the State (40 per cent), on average Perth volunteers gave nine per cent more hours per year: 134 compared with 123. Formal volunteering rates were highest in rural communities in the southern half of the state.
- On a per-adult-in-the-population basis, women outside Perth gave an average 10 per cent more to organised volunteering than women in Perth and 24 per cent more than men outside Perth.

Fig. 3 Formal volunteering in regional Western Australia (2006 ABS Census of Population & Housing)

Statistical Sub-division	Population (000)	Annual volunteer rate (%)	Annual number of volunteers (000)	Areas covered by the higher volunteering rates
South West	163.9	22.0	32.0	
Central	44.2	26.0	10.0	Greenough River (33-39%) – City of Geraldton, Shire of Greenough
Lower Great Southern	41.3	29.0	11.0	Pallingup (33-39%) – Shires of Broomehill, Gnowangerup, Jerramungup, Katanning, Kent, Kojonup, Tambellup, Woodanilling
Midlands	39.4	32.0	11.5	Campion (33-39%) – Shires of Bruce Rock, Kellerberrin, Merredin, Mount Marshall, Mukinbudin, Narembeen, Nungarin, Trayning, Westonia, Yilgarn
South Eastern	39.2	21.0	7.3	
Pilbara	30.5	22.0	5.2	
Kimberley	21.6	22.0	3.9	
Upper Great Southern	13.8	41.0	5.2	The Lakes (39-50%) - Shires of Corrigin, Kondinin, Kulin and Lake Grace Hotham (33-39%) - Shires of Brookton, Cuballing, Dumbleyung, Narrogin, Pingelly, Wagin, Wandering, West Arthur, Wickepin, Williams and Town of Narrogin



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Fig. 4 Formal volunteering in Perth (2006 ABS Census of Population & Housing)

Population group aged 15+	Population (000)	Annual volunteer rate (%)	Annual number of volunteers (000)
Perth	1162.9	17.0	176.0
Women	593.9	19.0	103.3
Men	569.0	14.0	72.6
Peppermint Grove	1.2	30.6	0.3
Nedlands	16.3	28.5	4.2
Claremont	7.6	28.1	1.9
Cottesloe	6.0	27.1	1.4
Subiaco	14.3	24.4	3.1
Mosman Park	6.8	24.1	1.5
Cambridge	18.9	23.8	4.1
East Fremantle	5.4	23.0	1.1
Fremantle Inner	0.8	23.0	0.1
Mundaring	27.7	22.2	5.5
Stirling South Eastern	13.0	21.3	2.5
Melville	76.7	20.5	14.6
South Perth	32.9	20.4	6.0
Stirling Coastal	52.0	20.0	9.5
Serpentine-Jarrahdale	9.9	19.6	1.8
Fremantle Remainder	20.5	19.2	3.5
Vincent	23.3	18.0	3.7
Kalamunda	39.6	18.0	6.6
Joondalup South	80.8	17.2	13.0
Perth Remainder	10.0	17.0	1.3
Canning	63.4	17.0	9.9
Armadale	39.5	16.4	5.9
Victoria Park	24.3	16.4	3.5
Bassendean	11.1	16.3	1.6
Bayswater	47.0	14.9	6.3
Perth Inner	1.0	14.5	0.1
Stirling Central	82.4	14.4	10.6
Rockingham	64.8	14.4	8.3
Joondalup North	38.4	14.3	5.1
Wanneroo North Western	27.3	14.0	3.5
Swan	70.9	13.8	8.8
Kwinana	17.8	13.5	2.0
Cockburn	58.5	13.4	7.1
Belmont	25.3	13.2	2.9
Gosnells	71.4	12.7	8.2
Wanneroo North Eastern	24.4	12.3	2.8
Wanneroo South	31.5	12.0	3.4

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Fig. 5 Value of volunteering through organisations by type of organisation, Western Australia, 2006

Type of organisation	Annual volunteer rate (%)	Annual number of volunteers (000)	Annual volunteer hours (million)	Annual value of volunteering (\$million)
Publicly oriented				
Education/training	11.3	176.4	17.5	475
Community/welfare	5.7	89.0	8.8	239
Health	3.0	46.8	4.6	126
Environment/animal welfare	1.5	23.4	2.3	63
Parenting/children/youth	1.7	26.5	2.6	71
Emergency services	1.4	21.9	2.2	59
Total publicly oriented	24.6	384.1	38.1	1,033
Privately oriented				
Sport/physical recreation	13.9	217.0	21.5	584
Religious	6.7	104.6	10.4	281
Other recreation/interest	1.6	25.0	2.5	67
Arts/heritage	1.4	21.9	2.2	59
Other	1.7	26.5	2.6	71
Total privately oriented	25.3	395.0	39.1	1,063
Total	48.9 a	779.1 a		
Total	37.6 b	587.8 b	77.2	2,096

(a) Counting multiple volunteering for more than one type of organisation

(b) Counting each volunteer once only

The future of volunteering in Western Australia

- Almost four in 10 (38 per cent) of Western Australian adults volunteered through an organisation in 2006 – up from around a quarter (26 per cent) in 1995.
- Informal volunteering involves more hours a year than formal volunteering and involves those who do organised volunteering and those who do not.
- Volunteering by both women and men is very widespread across all ages, employment status and income levels.
- Although the ageing population is likely to change demand to support for adults rather than for children, this is likely to be met principally by informal volunteering directly from one household to another.
- It seems likely formal and informal volunteering will be maintained at something like current levels.